

DEMOCRATIC MEETING.

The Democratic citizens of New Hanover County, are requested to meet at the Court-House in Wilmington, on Tuesday next County Court, (March 9th), at 7 1/2 P. M., for the purpose of appointing Delegates to represent this County in a Democratic State Convention, to be held in the City of Raleigh; and also for the purpose of appointing Delegates to represent the County in a District Convention, to be held in the town of Wilmington, to choose a Delegate to represent this Congressional District in the National Convention, to be held in the City of Baltimore, on the 1st day of June next. Other matters important to the organization of the party in this County, will also come before the meeting, and a full attendance is most earnestly solicited.

Feb. 6th, 1852. MANY DEMOCRATS.

Between 7 and 8 o'clock last Wednesday night, the second dwelling-house on Red Cross street, near Second, owned and occupied by John Nutt, Esq., was discovered to be on fire, and the flames progressed with such rapidity, that very little of the furniture could be saved. We started at the very first alarm, but before we got to the ground, the whole building was completely enveloped. There is every reason to believe that the fire was the work of an incendiary. The house was a new one, having been built within the last year, and insured for \$1,250 in the Mutual. We have not ascertained whether there was any insurance on the furniture, nor do we know the amount of loss under that head. The loss, we presume, will be from two thousand to twenty-five hundred dollars. This is the second time that Mr. Nutt has been burned out within a few years.

About 12 o'clock another, and more destructive fire burst forth, originating, we learn, in a frame out-building or kitchen, in the rear of the Washington Hotel, on Front street, near Princess. It was rapidly communicated to the frame dwelling-house of Mr. Peter Harris, which was totally destroyed without insurance. Thence it spread northward to the residence of Mr. Baxter, on Princess street, which, with out-buildings, was totally destroyed. Insured in Mutual for \$1,200. Mr. B. saved his furniture. The residence next door to Mr. Baxter's, owned and occupied by Mrs. Huggins, together with the adjoining house, occupied by Mr. Perry, but owned by Mr. John Quince, was also burned to the ground. We learn that Mrs. Huggins had an insurance of the amount of \$800. Mr. Quince has an insurance of a thousand dollars. The old brick building next door to the Journal office, known as the Calhoun house, was soon in flames, and for some time our office was in imminent danger, but the old building survived this, as it has done all previous fires, and stands a perfect monument of indestructibility.

We would here take occasion to return our most sincere acknowledgments to our fellow-citizens for the kind and friendly feeling displayed towards us, and the zealous and active interest taken by all in assisting us in placing our property in safety. It is almost a pleasure to be placed in danger when it calls forth such noble and generous feelings, and enables us more fully to appreciate the community in which we live. Our thanks are most especially due to our friends of the *Herald and Commercial*, who were on the ground giving us their services and tendering us, in case of any accident to our office, the full use of their offices and materials. Although, fortunately, no necessity exists for this, we feel equally grateful to them, and should a similar necessity overtake them, which heaven forbid, we will take a pleasure in reciprocating their courtesy.

Passing the Journal office, the wind, which blew from the North East, carried the flames towards the Lafayette Hotel, owned by Dr. Delosset, Sr., and occupied by Mr. David Thally. A new brick back-building was left with only the walls standing, and the roof of the main building was totally destroyed. At this point, the destructive element was stayed. The engines completely flooded the floors, and prevented the fire from extending downwards. Mr. Thally must have sustained very considerable loss in furniture and otherwise, exclusive of the loss by a suspension of his business. We are pleased to learn that he had effected an insurance on his furniture about three weeks since. The Hotel was insured, we believe, in the Mutual. The whole loss by this fire, as near as we can estimate, will sum up about ten thousand dollars—it will hardly vary a thousand over or above.

Wm. C. Howard, Esq., Magistrate of Police, Capt. C. D. Ellis, Chief Engineer, with his assistants and the fire wardens generally exerted themselves to the utmost extent of their abilities in the discharge of their duties, and too much credit cannot be awarded to all concerned, for their zeal and discretion.

We write this hurriedly, and perhaps may have omitted some particulars. Our office is in confusion, a considerable portion of the materials having been moved out and in during and after the fire, but we will be all straight in a day or two. A recent resolution of the Board of Commissioners prohibits the erection of wooden buildings within certain limits which include the burnt district. Those destroyed which were mainly frames will no doubt soon be replaced by brick structures.

"Copy." We had just got to our office yesterday morning, and were contemplating the wreck of matter and the crush of books and papers, which had been made by the hurried removal and replacement of the night before, when our youngest apprentice, commonly known as the "Devil," broke in upon our meditations, with his unvarying cry of "copy." It went to our heart like a gun shot, but we submitted to our destiny—took up pen and scissors, and set to work. We hope that deficiencies will be excused under the circumstances. A few hours before, we thought the chances for a Journal to-day very slim.

Among the President's appointments confirmed by the Senate, is that of Alex'r D. Moore, Collector of this port, in place of Col. R. G. Rankin, resigned.

Lola Montes is in Richmond. Wonder if she'll come here.

The Supreme Court of the United States has finally decided the celebrated Gaines case adversely to the claim made by Mrs. Myra Clark Gaines to the property of the late Mr. Clark of N. Orleans, thus affirming the decision of the U. S. District Court for the District of Louisiana. The property involved amounted to several millions.

The steamship Falcon, from Chagres, via Havana, arrived at New York on the 17th. She brings no gold, nor any later news from California. The only news of interest is from Chili, South America, where they have been fighting.

The movement of Gen. Cruz, in Chili, against the government of President Montt, had been entirely suppressed.

One of the bloodiest battles that ever occurred in Chili was fought on the plains of Lounquimilla, on the 8th of December. The government troops, after a hot engagement of seven hours, proved victorious, leaving two thousand dead and wounded on the field.

A treaty was afterwards concluded which it is believed will secure peace to the Republic for years.

A Whig convention composed of delegates from several counties in Kentucky has nominated John J. Crittenden as the Whig candidate for the presidency.

The Political World.

The present temporary lull in the political atmosphere affords a good opportunity for making a calm and quiet examination of the actual state of things throughout the country and in Congress. We need hardly say that the result of such examination is widely different from the representations, or rather the misrepresentations, of excited partisans or designing agitators.

The Senate has been talking over the intervention question. It will do no more. The time and the occasion for actual interference, or, as the phrase goes, for material aid, has not arrived. A resolution may possibly be passed expressive of the feelings and opinions of Congress, but not designed to have any direct practical operation. Gen. Cass, whose position is more systematically misrepresented than that of almost any other man in the country, made a long and able argument last week in defence of his position and in enforcement of his views upon this question. He is as far as any one from desiring to place the United States in a false position, or wishing to lead her into a career of extravagance and propaganda. He simply contends that it is due to herself—to the system of policy which she observes, and to the principles of international law by which she is guided in her intercourse with foreign powers, that she should place on record her dissent from and protest against the justice of those acts of forceful intervention, by whomsoever enacted, which she believes to be contrary to the laws of nations, lest her silence should be construed into acquiescence, and afford a plausible pretext for a similar intervention in cases where her own rights and interests might be injuriously affected. It certainly does not weaken the force of these considerations to contend that as a free people it is our right and duty to sympathize with other people struggling to obtain the blessings which we enjoy;—it could most assuredly be hard to say that we have not the same right to express our interest in the cause of freedom that despots have to express theirs in the cause of oppression. Gen. Cass's speech is most unquestionably an able one, and will in future be referred to as an authority when the miserable detractors of the "old man eloquent" will no longer be remembered for the purposes of contempt.

The resolution requesting the President to use his friendly offices with the English government in favor of the Irish "Patriots," now in the British penal Colonies will, we presume, pass, as it is irresistibly popular. Under existing circumstances, that government would, no doubt, gracefully accede to the request.

More than once during the heat of the late excitement, we ventured to deprecate the formation of all such temporary organizations as "Union parties," "Southern Rights parties," &c. We felt then, what every sensible man must now admit, that the time had not arrived for the abrogation of old party lines, or the dissolution of old party ties. The name of democrat, the principles of democracy, have always been good enough for us; and we find all good democrats, under whatever temporary banner they may have served, now ranging themselves in solid phalanx under that borne triumphantly aloft in other days by Jefferson, by Jackson, and by Polk. With the exception, perhaps, of New York, there will be none of that lack of harmony which we read about in some few disorganizing sheets. There may be, and no doubt will be, heartburnings and recriminations; but the true-hearted will press these for the good of the cause—the designing for the good of themselves.

The agitation of the Slavery question is at an end for the present. Some disgraceful scenes like that between Stanly and Giddings may occasionally be enacted, but people understand such things and take them for what they are worth. Of course it would be nonsense to say that an end has been put to the antagonism between the different systems of labor which exist at the North and at the South. Such antagonism springs from the nature of things, and will exist to a more or less extent so long as the two antagonistic systems exist side by side.

A late decisive vote has shown that the protectionists have no chance in a Congress so strongly democratic as the present. So far as that question is concerned, the party will abide the issue on its old platform. There will be no partial tariff, and no extravagant expenditures, in the way of improvements by the General Government, in cases not clearly within its jurisdiction. Recent events have demonstrated conclusively the wisdom of the democratic policy of a rigid construction of the Constitution, and the necessity of restricting the action of the General Government within the sphere of its most clearly defined powers. This is more than ever the foundation of the Democratic platform, and more essential to the triumph of the party and the safety of the country.

It is somewhat strange that there should be precisely an equal number of prominent aspirants for the Presidency on each side. On the part of the administration there are Fillmore, Scott, Webster and Crittenden; on the part of the Democrats, Cass, Douglass, Buchanan and Butler. Fillmore will be found much weaker among the whigs than is generally supposed.—And Cass much stronger among the Democrats. The probabilities are strong for the nomination of Scott, who will be supported by New York. If Fillmore cannot get the support of his own State he cannot get the nomination. It is all most certain that the New York delegation will go for Scott, and the game will be up.—Fillmore will be dashed in a hasty plate of soup.

There are other good and true men on the Democratic side, not so prominently before the public, but perfectly unexceptionable on the score of honesty and capacity, who stand a very fair chance for the nomination should a difficulty occur in deciding upon the respective claims of the distinguished gentlemen already mentioned. Among those we may mention General Lane of Oregon, the "Marion" of the Mexican war, and a native of this State, and Gen. Persifer F. Smith, of Louisiana, the hero of Contreras, an able lawyer, soldier and statesman. We have little doubt but that from among the host of distinguished Democrats which the Convention have to choose from, such a candidate will be presented as will render the nomination of the Baltimore Convention equivalent to an election.

Later from California.

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European Affairs.

The present position of things in Europe gives rich promise of an abundant harvest of news and excitement. The regular current of successful progress is unquestionably preyed, and affords but a poor staple for the newsworker; while wars and rumors of wars, dreadful accidents and horrid murders, destructive fires and distressing shipwrecks, are decidedly interesting and eagerly sought after. We remember upon one occasion being struck with the pleased expression of the "local" editor of a city paper, whom we met hurrying through the street, rubbing his hands and chuckling with satisfaction, while he kept remarking confidentially to himself, "fine murder," "delightful accident," "capital," &c. The fact was that a yellow fever had been on a big drunk and fat had, took a notion to break his wife's head with an iron pot and cut his own jugular with a shoe-knife, all which he duly performed, to the great satisfaction of the reporters and the coroner.

So in regard to public affairs. We always take a lively interest in those great national killing frolics generally called wars, and the interest rises in proportion to the slaughter—retail murder being by no means as popular as the wholesale transaction. The peculiarly critical position of the relations at present subsisting between England and France renders a war between the two countries by no means improbable, and as a consequence, an invasion or attempted invasion of England will be almost certain to follow the commencement of hostilities. Louis Napoleon cannot afford to stand still, he must give employment to the repressed energies of France, and by turning them into the channel of a foreign war, and that war against England, he may hope to divert attention from his own misdeeds and thus escape the fate of those usurpers who have preceded him.

A war once commenced between England and France the whole European continent would soon be in a blaze, since all experience has shown that hostilities between these nations has never failed to involve every power in Europe. But the probabilities of a general war become reduced to certainties when we take into account the inflammable materials of which European society is composed, and the agencies which are constantly at work in opposition to the present order of things. We have very little faith in the predictions we sometimes hear and read about the next struggle being one of "principles," and necessarily fatal to the existence of monarchy, and other things which we regard as abuses. Civil war is not a good preparation for self-government, and we fear that the next great war will be less one of nations than of classes; in fact, the very sort of a struggle to shake the foundations of all society and by the dread of anarchy drive nations to seek repose in despotism.

Upon the whole, however, there is a good time coming for the newspapers. The capture of London and its occupation by a French Army would be quite a startling piece of news, or on the other hand, should the invading force while crossing the channel happen to run foul of a British fleet and get sunk, drowned or captured, it would be nearly as interesting, besides being more probable.

It is not at all likely that the United States would willingly become a party to any of the disturbances and breaches of the peace which appear imminent; but it is almost impossible to see how she could avoid becoming involved. Her extended commerce would almost inevitably be subjected to spoliation or insult by some or all of the contending parties, and the national temper, not the most patiently enduring at any time, would not be particularly so, now that strength and prosperity are felt throughout every portion of the body politic.

Democratic Meeting in Cumberland County.

A meeting of the democratic party of Cumberland County, was held in Fayetteville, on the 10th inst. Warren Winslow, Esq., was called to the chair, and John McNeill, Esq., and Mr. Wm. McDuffie appointed secretaries. We take the following proceedings from the *Carolinian*, of the 14th inst.:

Resolved, That we do hereby propose and appropriate, that the democratic party of Cumberland County, for the purpose of preparing for the approaching General and Presidential canvasses; and whereas, the elections of the present year, both State and National, are of high and commanding importance:

Resolved, That we approve the holding of a State Convention in Raleigh, on Thursday the 22d day of April next, for the purpose of nominating a candidate for the office of Governor, and two delegates to the Baltimore Convention; and we recommend the people of Cumberland County to send three delegates to represent the county at the Convention in Raleigh.

Resolved, That we cordially approve and commend the administration of our present Chief Magistrate, the Hon. David S. Reid, and we present him to our fellow-citizens as worthy of and entitled to the support of the democratic party of the whole State, as a candidate for re-election to the Executive Chair.

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There is no California news of much interest. Some new mines have been discovered, but the late dry weather has had an unfavorable effect on the Southern mines. No United States Senator has yet been elected by the Legislature which is proceeding quietly with its business at Sacramento. A Mr. Crabbe has given notice of his intention to introduce a bill relative to slaves and free people of color.

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In the Senate, on Monday, 16th inst., various Executive communications were received, one setting forth the difficulty of making a proper appropriation for representatives, on account of the imperfect manner in which the census had been taken in California. Petitions were presented upon various subjects of little or no public interest.

Mr. Underwood reported the bill making land warrants assignable, (returned from the House with sundry amendments,) with a recommendation that the Senate do pass the bill. The bill granting land to Iowa, to aid in the construction of certain railroads in that State, was taken up, and Mr. Bell resumed the remarks commenced by him on Thursday last, and addressed the Senate in support of the amendments of Mr. Underwood, which gives to the old States a quantity of land equal in number of acres to the federal population, for purposes of internal improvement. He examined the whole subject of the administration of the public lands, and discussed various subjects incidental to this. No question taken and the Senate adjourned.

In the House of Representatives, Mr. Orr, of South Carolina, submitted a resolution, which was passed without opposition, calling upon the President to inform the House whether the accounts of Prosper Whetmore had been adjusted, and if any defalcation had been discovered and to what amount. Also, what steps had been taken to obtain the said amount, and whether any compromise had been entered into on the subject.

Mr. Hendricks, chairman of the committee on mileage, reported a bill repealing so much of the act relative to the territory of Oregon, as established the mileage of the delegate from that territory; which led to a discussion that occupied the time of the House till near twelve o'clock. When the House adjourned without taking any action.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 18, 1852. In Senate, a letter was read from Kossuth dated at Cincinnati, in which he returns thanks to the Government and Congress for the hospitality he had received at their hands. Enclosed was a copy of his address to President Fillmore upon the occasion of his leaving Washington. The question of receiving the French ambassador, which has been the subject of much debate, was taken up, and the House adjourned without taking any action.

THE STEAMER PAMPERO.—This steamer cleared at Jacksonville, Florida, on Saturday last, for Baltimore, via Charleston. She will proceed to Baltimore, where her owners intend to lengthen her about thirty feet, and fit her up in superior style. Her future destination is not known.

A priest was once called upon to pray over the barren fields of his parishioners. He passed from one enclosure to another, and pronounced his benediction, until he came to a most unpropitious case. He surveyed its sterile acres in despair. "Ah!" said he, "brethren—no use to pray here—this manure!"

LOUIS NAPOLEON AND THE PRESS.—A deputation consisting of some of the principal editors of the moderate press, were received by the President of the Republic in a private interview, which they have requested for the purpose of representing their grievances to which they were exposed by the rigorous censorship under which the newspapers have been placed since the revolution of the 2d of December. The gentleman who headed the deputation spoke for fully half an hour, and concluded his speech by expressing a hope that the President would give some moderate latitude to the papers to comment upon passing events. Louis Napoleon listened with great composure and patience; but his only answer was the following:—"Gentlemen, the press has already destroyed two dynasties; I may fall like the others; but I shall be the last to be destroyed by the press; and with this he bowed them out."

Stanly and Giddings had a very genteel debate in Congress on Wednesday. Giddings said to the gentleman from North Carolina, "I am glad to see you, who turned round so fast that the hind part of his breeches was on both sides." And Stanly concluded his state-manlike remarks with the remark, "I find that I have been in a dissecting room cutting up a dead dog."

INVASION OF ENGLAND BY FRANCE.—The late news from England, in relation to a probable war between that country and France, is the subject of general remark. The *National Commercial Advertiser*, in referring to the military movements in England, says:—

"We do not think that any of these movements in England have any special reference to France, or originate in any fear of rupture with her. They are, on the contrary, the result of a more general policy, and a more general feeling, which has given a strong negative answer to Russia and Austria, which powers have more than once demanded that England shall no longer be a refuge for political offenders; and is disposed to show those despots that she is quite prepared to stand by her refusal to comply with their demand."

In confirmation of this idea the London Standard and the United Service Gazette state that it is the intention of Louis Napoleon to reduce the army, by abolishing the system of conscription.

Virginia and the Compromise.—During the political discussion which came off five days since in the House of Representatives—already reported in our paper—Mr. McMillen of Virginia, made the following remarks:—

"On the subject of the compromise, the Virginia delegation were divided, but are they divided on either of those bills which involves a great constitutional question? But how did they act? Like statesmen and friends to their common country. We do not make war on one another. We remember the advice of Dr. Franklin: let us be friends."

"And they to us will be kind; If we be faults of friends expose, They will then become friends before."

"He would tell the gentleman furthermore, that the old-fashioned, Democratic, Jeffersonian, Old Hunter party was the real Union party of the country. It had always been the Union party, and it would be a slander on the Republic as well as living to say to the contrary.—Savannah Herald.

CANAL COAL.—The horrible catastrophe by which the British steamship Amazon was destroyed, and so many lives lost, will excite gloomy apprehensions in the minds of passengers by ocean steamers. The spontaneous combustion of the coal used by these steamers is the subject of much discussion.

The only perfect security in introducing the canal coal, which is not only the most superior coal in the world in other respects, but is not capable of spontaneous combustion. We trust that this valuable product of our Virginia mines will soon come into general use among the ocean steamers of the United States and other countries.—Richmond Republican.

A considerable proportion of our Deep River coal is of this description.—E.D.S. JOURNAL.

MICHIGAN AND THE HIGHER LAW.—The Detroit Tribune of the 31st inst. contains the following preamble and resolution, lately passed by the Board of Regents of the University of Michigan:—

"Whereas the Rev. D. D. Wholen has not only publicly preached but openly advocated the doctrine called the higher law, a doctrine unauthorized by the Bible, at war with the principles and precepts of Christ, subversive of civil government and society, and the legal rights of individuals: Therefore—

"Resolved, That the Rev. D. D. Wholen be and is hereby removed."

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